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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Varghese, et al.
Serial No: 09/411,773
Filed: October 4, 1999
For: VIRTUAL LANS

Examiner: Not yet assigned
Art Unit: 2737

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Specification:

At Page 20, line 31, delete "A SYSTEM" and insert --SYSTEM--.

At Page 21, line 2, after "herewith," insert --and which issued as U.S. Patent 5,905,723
on May 18, 1999,--.

In the Claims:

Please add the following claims:

--36. A computer program product for use with a network device having a computer and a first plurality of ports on which network communications pass to and from the network device, the computer program product comprising computer program instructions that when executed by the computer direct the computer to perform a method of directing the network communications, the method comprising:

assigning a group identifier to each port of the plurality of ports, wherein all ports with a same assigned group identifier are in a same group;

receiving a communication on a first port of the network device; and

sending the communication out of the network device on all other ports of the network device having the same assigned group identifier as the first port.

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